

ANNUAL
NARRATIVE-REPORT

for

GILA COUNTY

ARIZONA

December 1, 1947 to November 30, 1948

Miss L. E. Hughes

Home Demonstration Agent

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GILA

1948

December 1, 1947 to November 30, 1948

The Agent spent a total of 31 days in Gila County.

Work was done in the fields of: Food Preservation (canning, freezing and jelly making); food preparation (methods of caking making and altitude corrections); Clothing and Textiles (short cuts in sewing, alteration of neckline and collar designing and sewing machine clinics [cleaning, oiling and use of attachments]).

With one exception, Home Demonstration work was done in only three communities in 1947-48, however, the demand is increasing for work in the Tonto Basin so plans are being made to include this community in the county program for 1948-49.

As was anticipated in 1947, Pine and Payson have received electricity. This one factor has, more than any other, greatly improved both living and working conditions in these areas.

OrganizationandPlanning-AdultGila

No Home Demonstration clubs as such were organized in Gila County. An attempt was made to organize one in Young because the Women's Club was so very inactive. However, the women did not feel that two clubs in such a small community would be possible and they did not want to let their Woman's Club completely drop. There is a possibility of organizing a Home Demonstration Club in Tonto Basin next spring. These women are interested in Home Demonstration programs but it is difficult for them to get together because of the poor roads and long distances.

A Home Demonstration Program Planning Day was planned for Gila, Yavapai and Coconino Counties to be held in the Verde Valley in October. However, the prevalence of polio necessitated the cancelling of this meeting and the program planning was done by letter through the use of degree of interest questionnaires. Each community indicated their primary interests and every effort is being made to meet as many of the community primary interests as possible.

None of the ladies from Gila County were able to attend County Life Conference in Tucson this year.

ORGANIZATION

and

PLANNING

4-H

GILA

A girls 4H club with 15 members was organized in Young in the fall of 1947 but only three members completed. The failure here was due to lack of experienced leadership and to a lack of training in cooperation on the part of all concerned. In spite of the disappointment felt by both the county and Home Demonstration agent over the failure of this club last year, another attempt is being made this year. A new adult leader is being used. It is hoped that since this leader is new to the community and is actively interested in 4-H Club work because she has children of her own that the club year of 1948-49 will give us a different and improved 4-H story to report.

NUTRITION

and

HEALTH-

ADULT

Food Preservation and Storage

Three pressure canner clinics were held in the county this year. A total of 25 canners were tested. Two new gauges, four new "Pop Offs" and one new lid were recommended. The gauges were in much better condition in 1948 than they were in 1947. The agent encountered instances of negligence on the part of the homemaker in her use of the pressure canner. A concentrated effort has been made to teach the homemaker to use her pressure canner with discretion and care. One homemaker had sealed the "Pop Off" tight with a drop of solder and another in using her pressure canner as a water bath canner had put the lid on and secured it with only one clamp. Needless to say either of these practices might result in serious accidents to any one using or around the canner while it was in use. Short but to the point discussions were held both with the individual homemaker and with all homemakers attending the clinics on the safe use of the Pressure Canner.

Very little difficulty was encountered this year with the self-sealing lids. Apparently the majority of the war time lids are either used up or have been taken off the market.

The making of jellies, jams and preserves was discussed and demonstrated in the three communities of Pine, Payson and Young. Only one lady in these communities had ever seen or used a jel-meter. The jel-meter was enthusiastically received since difficulty was being experienced, especially this year, in the making of wild grape jelly.

As anticipated in 1947, the power line was extended to Pine, Payson and vicinity. This electrical service resulted in 90% of the families securing electrical ice boxes, 50% of which have the deep freeze

Food Preservation and Storage--Con't.

Units and eight individual deep freeze units. This has greatly increased short time storage of foods and long time storage of all foods by those families having deep freeze.

Demonstrations on the preparation and packaging of fruits, vegetables, fowl, and meats for the home freezer and freezer locker plants were held in these communities. One of the biggest problems which these people encountered is the securing of appropriate packaging materials. The agent was able to give them samples of materials and addresses where these materials may be secured. It is anticipated that many more deep freeze units will be installed in private homes in the next year.

Food Selection and Preparation

Three demonstrations were held on the making of cakes with the appropriate altitude corrections. These demonstrations were enthusiastically received and the common comment among the younger women was "I'm going home and make a cake for supper and surprise my husband." It is interesting to note the lasting effect which these cake making demonstrations have had. The ladies are much more competent to take a recipe from a current magazine, make the altitude corrections and get a good cake the first time that they make it. This not only serves as a morale booster but it also saves money.

NUTRITION

and

HEALTH-

4-H

Of the 15-4H girls who enrolled in the 4-H 2nd year foods club, only three completed. These members received their certificates and pins. They are enrolled in the 3rd. year foods club this year.

One of the 4-H Foods Club members did the 2nd year foods preservation project. She canned 10 qts. of fruits, 10 qts. of vegetables and 5 qts. of meat and fowl.

CLOTHING

and

TEXTILES

ADULT

One meeting was held in Payson the topic being "Short Cuts in Sewing." The ladies were especially enthusiastic about the making of continuous bias binding and the little organdie points. It is only natural that they should be very interested in these as well as all other home made trimmings since they are so isolated from a source of supply and have to make most of the trimmings for their clothes. They are always interested and responsive to new ideas of this sort.

Two demonstrations were given on "Collar Designing and Necklines." The ladies especially enjoyed this demonstration because it answered one of their problems. A number of these ladies are fairly heavy set and have always had difficulty in getting patterns which were broad enough across the shoulders for them and they did not know how to make them fit without getting a larger pattern and this was naturally too large in the waist line. Each lady had her neckline and shoulder line measured and took the measurements home with her to use when she made her next dress.

Three sewing machine clinics were held in Pine, Young and Tonto Basin. Thirty machines were cleaned, oiled and adjusted by the ladies under the supervision of the agent. The majority of the machines did not need repairs but they were very definitely in the need of cleaning and adjusting. One very interesting machine was a very old domestic machine. The homemaker who owned this machine was most enthusiastic about the clinic because we were able to get it adjusted so that it stitched perfectly, something which it had not done for several years. Another very interesting machine was the one in the Tonto Basin which had been inside a home that had burned early this summer. The sewing machine head was all that was saved when this home burned. With the assistance of the agent this lady was able to take home a perfectly running machine. All that she then needed was a cabinet which her husband

Clothing and Textiles--Adult--Con't.

made for her. One of the most important results of these sewing machine clinics is that they teach the women not to be afraid to adjust their machines. It is astonishing the number of women who have never adjusted even their top thread tensions. Now days with the new attachments which are becoming more and more available and necessary as time savers it is necessary for each homemaker to understand at least the simple adjustments necessary for her machine.

About 20 individual homemakers were assisted with the use of their sewing machine attachments and one meeting was given on additional sewing machine attachments informations. This meeting was given as a result of popular request by the ladies of Young.

CLOTHING

and

TEXTILES

4-H

In the fall of 1947 a girls 4-H Clothing II Club was formed. However, due to lack of cooperation on the part of the club members and adequate leadership, only three girls completed their project work. As an example of the lack of parent and club members cooperation: the agent made a date with the club members to give a demonstration and work meeting on the making of the 4-H sewing box. Only two members were present. One member had to help her Mother wash and another had to visit her sister living only three miles away and another simply forgot to come. It is practically impossible for anyone to accomplish any type of satisfactory club work under these conditions.

However, another attempt is being made to have a club in this community in the 1948-49 club year. A new and enthusiastic leader has been secured and better results are hoped for.